**Ethics Reflection**

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?

When evaluating and dealing with various situations using ethics, it is important to be consistent with our moral reasoning to a certain extent. If we were inconsistent in our moral reasoning in situations dealing with similar moral decisions then we would begin to make exceptions to all our moral values and will then ultimately lose our sense in what is actually ethically right or wrong.

When making moral choices, reason and emotion have an influence. It is important to use reason more than emotion in moral reasoning so that we can be consistent with our judgments about what is right and wrong in particular situations. Moral reasoning is better done without emotion which has heavy influence on our decisions in an instance and allows us to make exceptions we shouldn’t. It is wrong to be inconsistent with our moral reasoning because that would be unfair to others in those same situations perhaps and if we made exceptions to everyone, people would do whatever they wanted and chaos would occur.

However, that being said, we cannot always be consistent with our moral reasoning because emotion is what influences us to do what is right and what brings the most happiness to others in many situations. Without emotion being used in our moral reasoning, we do not take into the consequences that will occur or the benefits to oneself and others at the time.

1. Are scientists morally responsible for how their discoveries are used? Refer to one or more natural sciences as an area of knowledge?

When we obtain knowledge, we are given the responsibility and decision of what to do with that knowledge. The most common obligation for obtaining knowledge is that once you have it, you should share it. Scientists are morally responsible for how their discoveries are used especially when that knowledge can benefit others to a great extent. It may also occur that some scientific discoveries might be of something that can bring harm others in which case makes it even more important to share knowledge so that potential harm to others can be known and prevented. This is evident in biology and chemistry where discoveries can help save lives of others. It is also the responsibility of one to use ones knowledge for greater good and/or in a way that will not harm others but help them. This is evident in physics where the discovery and design of things such as the light bulb have served great purpose to mankind. Perhaps the discovery and design of war and nuclear weapons can be debated if it being ethically correct to use one’s knowledge obtained to design weapons to hurt/protect others. It is also important to share knowledge so that scientists to follow can perhaps improve and gain more understanding and knowledge about whatever has been discovered. Overall scientists have great responsibility for deciding whether to share their discoveries and how to use them and it should be in their best interest to do with their discoveries what would help and benefit they themselves and everyone around them as much as they can.